

Tomorrow last day to:

- Add classes
- Petition for graduation

Free music under the smog

Entertainment / 3

Can't touch this . . .



Sports / 4

VALLEY STAR

Los Angeles Valley College

Vol.45, No.2

Thursday, September 10, 1992

Van Nuys, California

Chemistry Bldg. declared unsafe

• Fume hoods condemned

By JENNIFER L. CASE
Opinion Editor

A potentially lethal on-campus disaster is waiting to happen due to lack of air conditioning, poor ventilation and no emergency funds according to Chemistry Department Chair Elizabeth S. Friedman, Ph.D. Cal Safety Laboratory inspected the five chemistry labs at Valley last July and declared all of the fume hoods condemned.

"I keep telling administration that when this place blows they better run," Friedman said. "Not to mention that a chemistry building in and of itself is hazardous-period."

Built in the 1950's, none of the hoods "comply with new federal standards" according to Dave Ogne, head of plant facilities.

Although deemed below standard, some of the hoods still have adequate airflow allowing them to be used for demonstrations and teamwork lab assignments.

There is a plan to bring the hoods up to standard but there is no money currently available to rectify the situation.

"The state has emergency funds and this is an emergency," Friedman said. "Last time I heard, the emergency fund account had zero in it."

The standards set by new safety codes call attention to other potential hazards inherent in the design of the work stations.

If a fire or explosion were to occur, the present design would necessitate a professor having to reach through the fire to turn the gas off or the water on.

In addition, there are no

bullnoses or raises on the edges of counters to prevent liquid from falling on students in the event of an accidental chemical spill.

Still more problems lie in the design of the Chemistry Building itself.

The exhaust stack is presently located next to the building's air intake vents in violation of code standards which specify that the exhaust must be ten feet above the roof.

Some of the ductwork is not continuous causing exhaust to escape into attic space and corrode all the other ductwork.

Asbestos has also been found in the vents themselves.

"Although it [the asbestos] is encapsulated, you are not supposed to leave it sitting," Friedman said. "We don't know that any has been released yet."

Another violation is that the blowers are in the attic. Safety standards now require them to be on the roof.

Lack of air conditioning and ventilation creates dangerous conditions within the chemical stockroom for workers Friedman pointed out. Without air conditioning, chemicals become extremely volatile.

"Faculty have already been complaining of headaches," Friedman stated, "and realistically, Paul Robbins [a stockroom worker] could file a [lawsuit]."

Friedman blames some of the problems on the Board of Trustees.

"Valley has to give 1.5 million back to the district to support other schools. Because we aren't allowed to use any of the money we earn, we can't fix problems like this."

"They're going to have a major disaster," she said. "We've just been lucky so far."

library chairperson, the library's budget is underfunded.

A portion of the total, \$25,800, goes to the purchase of books. The rest, \$21,400, is used for periodicals, including microfisch, indexes and newspaper and magazine subscriptions.

The increasing costs to purchase periodical subscriptions have increased ten percent. The average cost of a book is now \$45-\$50, plus tax. "It is a challenge to provide adequate, updated materials to students," May said.

— J.A. BASSMAN

New look for Valley's Campus Police

Sporting new black and white patrol cars and Los Angeles Police Department uniforms, Campus police at Los Angeles Valley College are using these as a way of further preventing crime on campus.

The patrol cars were repainted by the Buildings and Grounds Department on campus and funds to switch to L.A.P.D. uniforms were provided by the annual budget for uniform maintenance.

Capt. Traber said the new uniforms and patrol cars should be more effective in curbing crime on campus. No rapes or murders and only three robberies have been reported on campus in the last three years but many street gangs in the area did not see Campus Police as a threat, he said.

— MONTGOMERY L. BOWN

Boring class blues . . .



BLUES, ANYONE?— Music majors Jerry Lortz (playing guitar) and Stephen Lefebure catch the attention of a passing girl outside the Music

Building Wednesday. "We're basically killing time," said Lortz. "The class I'm supposed to be in right now is soooo boring."

MICHAEL OEHLER / Valley Star

Budget items revealed

By ANNA L. VILLA
Editor-in-Chief

For 63 days they waited. State legislators cringed every time the budget ax swung their way. Students piled into representatives' offices, tied up phone lines and rallied throughout the district.

Finally the ax came down. And the final budget passed last week cutting deeply into California's education system.

On January 1, community college students will face increases in tuition.

The current \$6 fee per unit will be hiked up to \$10 per unit with no cap. For students holding a BA degree, fees will increase to \$50 per unit.

"It's a sad day for community colleges," said State Chancellor Dr. Donald G. Phelps. "Our students are being taxed rather than the state legislature coming to grips with the problems. It hits harder in major urban areas such as Los Angeles where minorities are a large part of the population."

School leaders anticipate that the

increases will affect as many as 150,000 students who may not be able to afford their tuition.

The amount of money spent per student will not change from the previous year because of a compromise that allows schools to borrow against future funds guaranteed by Prop. 98.

According to Jack Sterk, faculty president, Valley received \$750,000 less money than allocated in 91-92. Although Valley is second in the district in student enrollment, "it remains last in dollars per Full-Time Equivalent Student."

Earlier this year, Valley had provided for 1540 classes. Before registration began, however, the fall

schedule had been reduced to 1480 classes. Five more classes were later cancelled because of low enrollment.

The state and UC systems also suffered from the cuts contained in the new budget. State support for the university systems fell by 9 percent, cutting \$360 million.

"This ought to be a wake-up call [to students]," said Chancellor Phelps. "This situation could get worse and there could be additional increases. We need to safeguard against it by being politically active. Students have not been viewed as a powerful block of voters."

Student Trustee Hauck 'sticks boot in door'

By ANNA L. VILLA
Editor-in-Chief

The sound of cowboy boots echoed through the halls of Sacramento's Capitol Hill. As the financial doors were steadfastly closing on Community Colleges, the boot-clad young woman managed to stick a foot in the door and slip in.

Echoing the messages of anger, frustration, anxiety and need of 120,000 students in the Los Angeles Community College District, Student Trustee, Erica Hauck, implored legislators not to turn their backs on education.

The response she received was "If the people you represent don't vote, they don't have a voice."

Earlier this summer, as California sunk further down into its economic crisis, Trustee Hauck plunged into her new role of increasing student awareness throughout LACCD.

Elected to the post after being Associated Student Union president at Valley for a year, Hauck said she is pleased with the open reception she has received from students, faculty and state legislators.

As Student Trustee, Hauck is a member of the LACCD Board of Trustees. Her main role is to learn the overall sentiments of the students on the nine district campuses and relate them to the Board.

During a crisis such as the budget impasse, Hauck takes student concerns even further and this summer she went directly to the state.

"A lot of Assemblymen said they don't hear enough from us [students] and a lot of them were happy to see a student up there," she said.

"The Legislature knows we don't vote," Hauck said. "They know we're apathetic and a minority at the polls. If students had organized themselves and not voted for Wilson [two years ago], the number of student votes alone would've kept him out of office."



SHARA R. WELLS / Valley Star

ERICA HAUCK

As a student of Valley College, juggling 12 units this semester, Hauck said she worries over the future of community colleges. She said she fears that by the time he seeks re-election, people would've forgotten the gravity of the budget situation.

Despite her current active political role, Hauck said she is unsure if she has what it takes to pursue a political career. An Administration of Justice major, she said she has the commitment and the right attitude for the job but is shaky about developing the skills to move into a broader arena.

Having to build relationships and strong connections within a one-year term as Trustee, Hauck said, makes it difficult to establish efficiency. And, as the directions and goals change with each Trustee every year, it is also difficult to maintain consistency in student government.

Added to her role as student representative to the Board, Hauck has the ability to second motions during Board meetings, something she appreciates, she said, because it gives her the ability to take action.

"It's hard for students to take action because the means aren't available to them," Hauck said. "Student organizations don't have the finances you incur in situations of the magnitude of the budget crisis, to travel and voice their opinion," she said.

A Student Trustee also chairs a Student Affairs Committee consisting of the nine ASO presidents of the district.

"For the past few weeks, I've been attending Committee and Board meetings, student rallies, trying to go to class and once in a while I get into my bed and go to sleep," Hauck said with a grin.

"The key is voting," Hauck said. "Students can make a difference—You don't see the effects right away but if you care about education and if we all pull together, we can make it happen," she said determinedly.

NEWS BRIEFS

New transfer program for CSUN-bound students

A new transfer program begins this semester which will guarantee admission to CSUN to qualifying students.

The Transfer Admission Agreement (TAA) are contracts made between Valley College, CSUN and students good for any period up to two years.

Admission to CSUN is guaranteed provided students successfully complete the courses listed in the contract.

The first informational meeting is today at 11 a.m. in the Career/Transfer Center in the Administration Building lobby.

For further information contact Ann Morris EXT. 246.

Library woes budget cuts

As the new school year begins, the Library staff at Los Angeles Valley College will once again have to make do with limited resources.

The total amount allotted to the library for this fiscal year is \$47,200. But according to David G. May,

EDITORIAL

Repairs welcome

Despite budget cuts and turmoil, life at Valley College plant facilities has gone on.

In an overall campus beautification project, workers have been slowly making much-needed repairs, in addition to keeping the campus clean.

Over the summer, they went to work on the music building. They replaced light fixtures and replaced old, dangerous carpet. They also created a soundproof practice room from scratch.

The theatre department also got some special attention. Plant facilities installed brand-new maroon carpet in the Horseshoe Theatre to match the new seats that were donated last year. For added safety, lightstrips were also laid down each side of the aisle.

Beside keeping up with the day-to-day projects such as removing graffiti, other campus-

wide projects are still on-going.

The reprographics room was newly painted as well as most of the main building doors and counseling offices. Over 80 percent are completed, and the bungalows are next.

In addition, Valley purchased a new power-driven sweeper to clean all the campus parking lots.

To surround the parking lots, they trimmed the oleanders and put in new concrete stoppers to replace the old wooden ones.

According to Dave Ogne, head of plant facilities, some of the upcoming projects include updating the prehistoric Chemistry Lab, and installing air conditioning in some of the main buildings that don't have it.

The *Valley Star* would like to thank and encourage plant facilities' efforts in beautifying the campus.

Kissing babies is not enough

By JAE LEVINE WEISS
Staff Writer

In the recent budget slaughterhouse, the hatchet swung away. The ax came down hardest on programs for those least able to afford the cuts.

Down it came on education, on health care, and on human services.

From interior-designer decorated offices and over expense-card lunches, cuts were made by those in charge which most directly injure the most dependant of all — the children.

The irony in all of this which plenty of people seem to be missing is the fact that the hatchetmen are for the most part members of that right-winged gang of conservatives whose buzz word of the week is "family values." This from people who at once condemn fictional television characters for their independent breeding, and drag cute

little kids onto their podiums for the cameras at election time — all the while shouting those magic words to the cheering crowds below.

"We CARE about children!" they proudly declare.

Do they "care about children" by voting against bills which provide for affordable childcare and the right to reasonable maternity (and paternity) time without fear of job loss for the family?

Do they "Care about children" while they are cutting off funding for health centers which provide prenatal, preventative and even emergency care for poor children and their families?

To prove that they care they fight for legislation which will climb right inside women's wombs if necessary in order to protect the rights of their future constituents.

"It is time we vote for elected officials who will put our money where their mouth is."

"We CARE about children, and will fight for the right to life because EVERY American has the right to be born!" they sanctimoniously sermonize

Wherever you stand regarding abortion, it is important to realize that all of us are being swindled by the political hypocrisy regarding the

way our government shows that it "CARES" about its children.

Do they care by crippling public school education while pushing for tax credits which would make private school for privileged children even more affordable for the rich at the public's expense?

Do they "care about children" by reducing Aid to Families with Dependent Children so far below the poverty level that housing for some may amount to the back of a car, and penalize welfare families who have additional children by cutting back on benefits for the babies they insist mothers carry to term?

At the same time, do they care by eliminating job training programs which might give families a way out of destitution and despair?

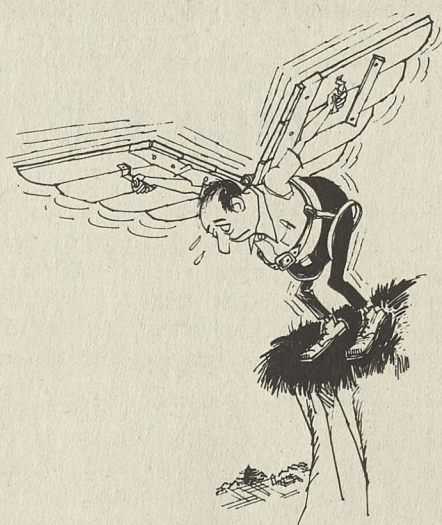
As you listen to the slick verbiage put together by advertising agencies, handlers and professional speech writers, read between the lines and look at the records of the people to whom you are handing the power.

Pulling a shattered America together will take more than kissing babies for the press, using catch phrases about "family values" and "caring about children, and displaying aborted fetuses on TV political ads.

No matter where you stand, it is time to acknowledge that "caring about children" means caring FOR children once they are born — not with empty words, but with real provisions for their well-being.

It is time to vote for elected officials who will put OUR money where THEIR mouth is.

you ask to read the fine print, or question the measure, the person will intimidate you by telling you you don't know what you're talking about. If that doesn't work, then



they will manipulate you by telling you everyone else signed it. "What makes you so special?" some will

ask. Some will even tell you they don't want your signature.

The harm of these tactics is that even though the person may have a vague idea what they are signing, they will put their doubts aside and sign it anyway.

Regrettably, there are many risks involved when endorsing a document of any caliber.

Some things to watch out for are: Fraudulent documents, papers that are of no consequence to a pertaining subject, papers stuffed in the middle of a stack of forms, and misleading, vaguely worded documents.

Others include documents with fine print or small specific clause, documents with legal jargon or tricky terminology, and petitions or forms not incorporating evidence or literature pertaining to the "subject" which was previously provided verbally.

Be on the lookout for these predators of ignorance.

Textbooks 4 \$ale...

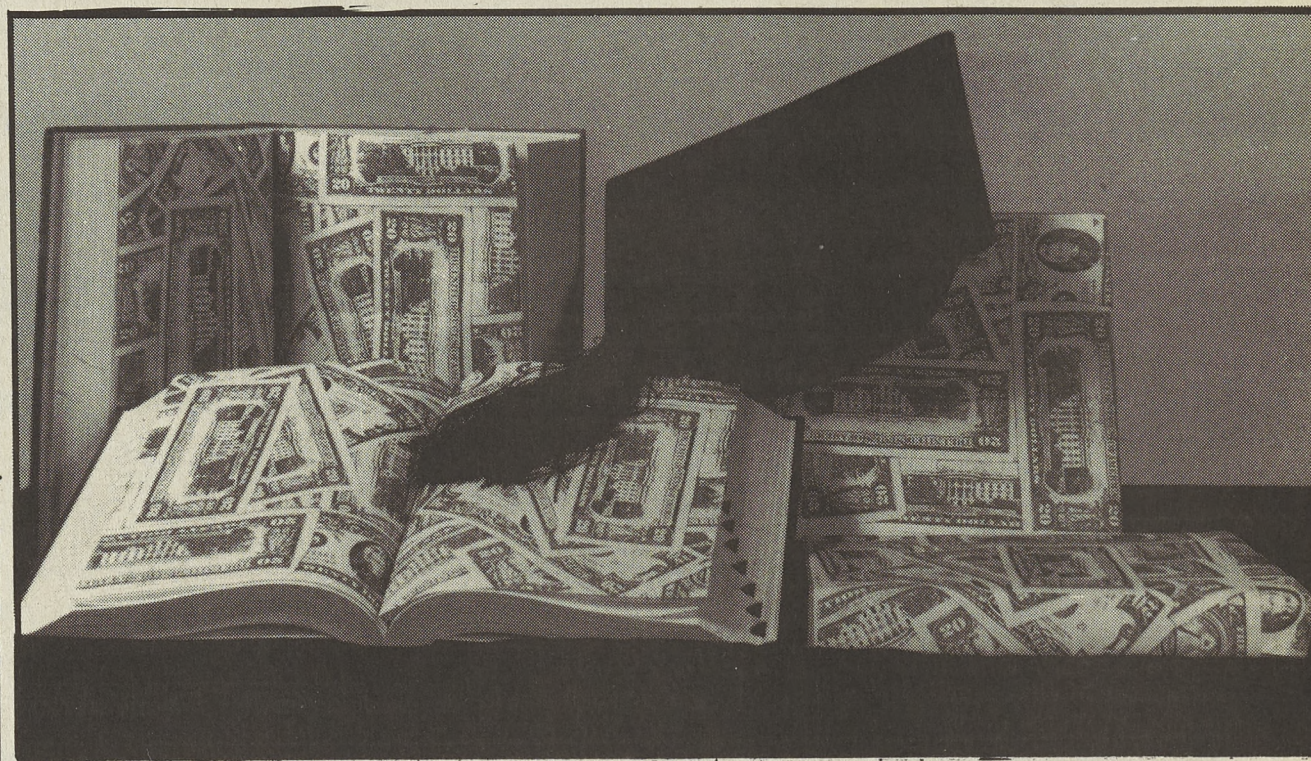


Illustration by Uzi Ashkenazi / Shara Wells

Money for something and the books aren't free

By SUSAN TYRRELL
Staff Writer

My two required German books came wrapped in plastic with a yellow flyer informing me that I was purchasing a "special discount" package for LAVC. I don't know how much a standard German textbook and paperback workbook normally cost, but \$57.10 plus tax is not my idea of a discount. Legal Robbery is the oxymoron that most fits the repulsive state of textbook pricing.

I had also been enrolled in a Chicano studies class, but upon inspection, I discovered that there were six books for the course. The first one I picked up was a small paperback, no more than about 150 pages; it was over \$20. I didn't even bother to glance at the other five, some of which were hardback. I did, however, glance at other classes being offered at that hour.

And when I discovered that my friend's paperback algebra workbook, which would probably retail in the real world for around \$20, was \$46.50, I found myself especially grateful that I had taken statistics over the summer—and had borrowed that book.

I have heard every imaginable excuse attempting weak explanations for the exorbitant prices of textbooks.

Publishers tell me that they do offer lower-priced textbooks, but teachers order expensive four-

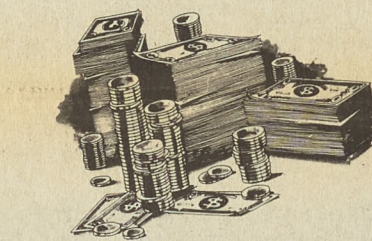
color hardbacks which college bookstores further mark-up.

Teachers repeatedly apologize to their classes for the prices of those expensive four-color hardbacks they must buy, saying, "I don't know why they have to charge so much."

And bookstore workers say the publishers charge too much and they only do a standard minimal mark-up.

Well, hee haw! I have never been one for excuses and all of those are just that. There is truth in each one of those statements, but none is the complete truth.

Meanwhile, I find myself dropp-



ing classes each semester because silly, spendthrift me—I don't walk around with an extra \$400 in my purse.

I have been livid about textbook prices since I was forced to pay over \$18 for a 94-page paperback, or drop a necessary class. I later found this book at Duttons for about \$6.

A few teachers actively seek lower-priced books. Statistics teacher Dr. Michael Gardner writes his own workbooks which

he has bound and sells to students for \$5 each, not much more than they cost to produce.

Many publishing companies offer custom publishing. That's when teachers select the specific parts of a book they teach and the company has those sections bound into a book. This significantly reduces the price.

Also, many four-color hardbacks are available in black and white paperbacks. The only difference is the color and the binding. Professors need to stop blindly ordering the same old book and seek the lower-priced options for the identical text.

Telling a bookstore to lower its prices or its mark-ups during a recession is plain dumb. So I won't do it.

Since I haven't done that, allow me to offer a better option for any student in a literature, history or humanities class where regular books are often read: Hightail it to Duttons, Bookstar or Crown and buy them there. You'll save at least 10 percent—even more if a hardback is assigned and the book is available in paperback.

Also, find out what books you need for next semester and go to one of these bookstores and see how many you can special order; Cut out the middle man.

Until students get a spine and dent the profits of price gougers (regardless of if it's the publishers or booksellers, or someone else), we will all suffer ludicrous prices.

Letter to the Editor
Homophobia exists on campus

I had just finished using the urinal and was washing my hands when a campus policeman came in to the restroom and asked if everything was alright.

I told him it was and asked him what was the matter. He told me there was a man lurking around the stalls. I suggested maybe someone was looking for a friend. He quickly rejected that possibility.

I left and the policeman followed me out. He volunteered that he thought the man who was using the stall may have been the person. He further stated it was someone to be "off-color."

He then said, "gay." That was when I introduced myself as the commissioner of Gay and Lesbian Concerns.

Whether the person he allegedly was looking for was gay or not, is not the point of my frustration. I agree when someone is going to the bathroom that person should be allowed to do so without someone lurking around. At the same time, that campus policeman was all set and gung-ho to take care of a gay man. The comment that the cop made is a reflection of his homophobic ideas that he has when he is doing his duty to protect and serve as he is sworn to do.

I, being gay, does not make me off color. I am just the way God intended me to be.

How am I to expect homophobia to dwindle down on campus when it is in the people who are sworn to protect and serve me along with the rest of the campus?

I do not require or desire an apology or disciplinary action of any kind. I do desire education among campus police, teachers, administrators, and students on Valley college.

Tracy D. Hart
Commissioner of Gay
and Lesbian Concerns

Valley Star

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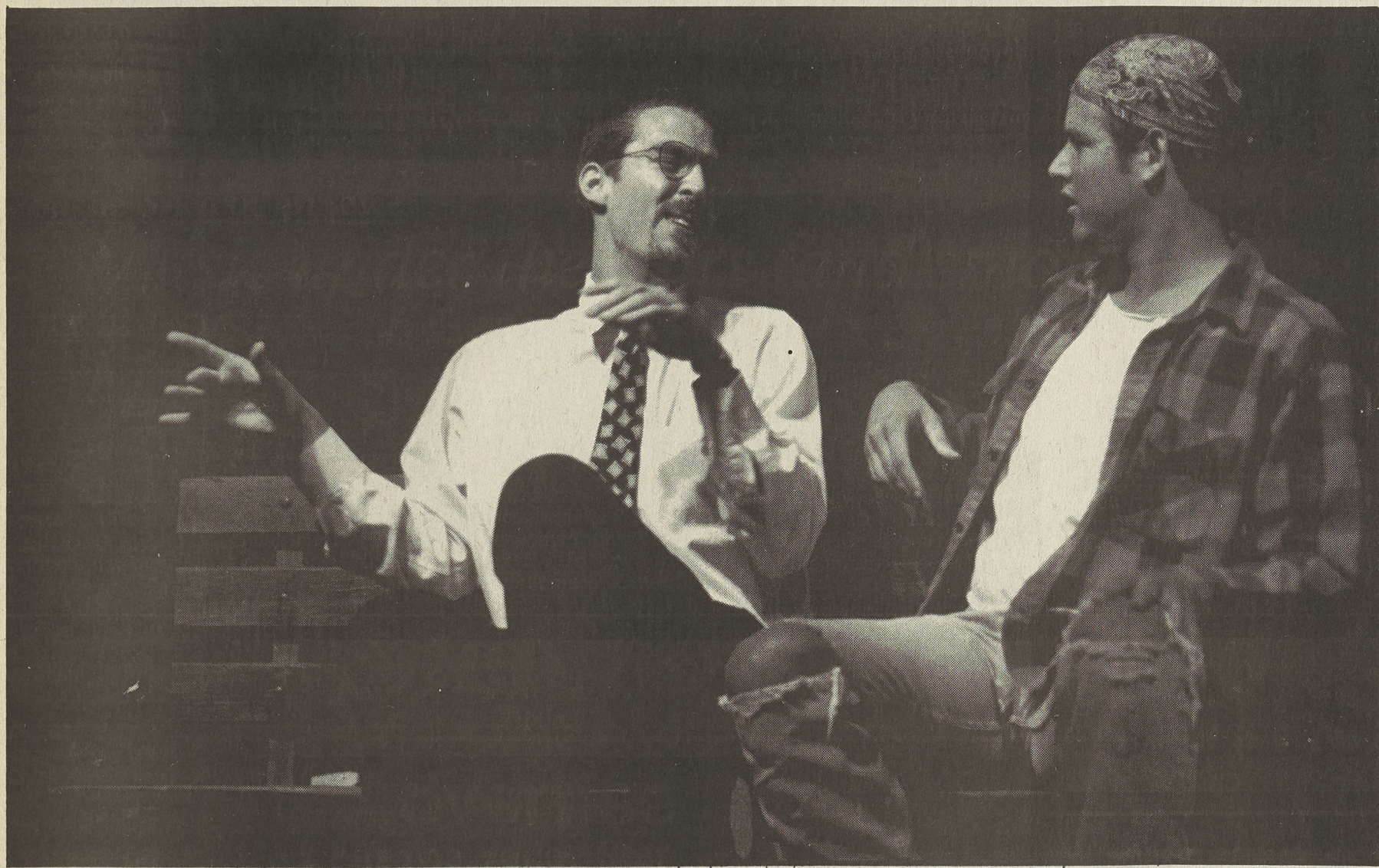
LETTERS ★ LETTERS ★ LETTERS

The *Valley Star* is happy to receive and, if possible, publish letters from its readers. The *Star* reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 350 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic, religious, sexist, or sexually oriented denigrations. Letters should be signed and include student's major and ID number. Letters may be presented to the *Valley Star* office, Bungalow 25, by Monday morning for the following Thursday.



FIRST AMENDMENT

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right to a free and independent press, which is protected from undue political forces and restraint. Within the sphere of presses in colleges and universities, administrations at such institutions must preserve and protect the integrity and honesty of such presses. Any undue influence by any special interest group or university administrator or faculty person to change, restrain or censor editorial copy is nothing less than a complete abridgement



WHITE COLLAR MEETS NO COLLAR— Peter (in white shirt, Joe Spencer) and Jerry (Shayne Anderson) get to know each other up close

and personal in *The Zoo Story*, playing today through Saturday in the Shoebox Theater.

Get a leg up

• *Become part of the 'cultural elite' with MOCA's art talks*

By JAE LEVINE WEISS
Entertainment Editor

In this election year, the term "cultural elite" has become one of the most popular buzz-words being thrown into political sound-bites. The imagined intention of this tactic is that the low-browed "Average Joe" will be antagonized out of voting for members of this pseudo-sub-culture of Evian-swilling snobs.

If you are among those who are not quite sure which is the salad fork at the boss's dinner party, who read the Cliff Note's version of Hamlet instead of Shakespeare's, and are still ordering regular coffee instead of espresso, you might be feeling left behind by that enviable group of "others."

We're talking about those guys who do the New York Times crossword puzzle in ink while doing their daily 10k on the treadmill.

They're the ones having tailgate parties out of the back of their Volvos in the parking lot of the Bowl, and consulting their video tapes of "The Great Chefs of New York" to find great recipes calling for sun dried tomatoes and shitake mushrooms even when they're not expecting company.

If you feel as if you'd like to have a leg up on the competition, the Museum of Contemporary Arts, Los Angeles may have just the thing for you. During the months of September and October, a series of 12 "Art Talks" will be offered which promise to provide individual perspectives on the exhibitions, from the curatorial process through the collaboration with the artists.

Background information on each

of the artists and educated views of the works can give the novice an informed insight by which to better appreciate modern art.

As part of the series the talks include "Martin Puryear," whose works will be on view through October 4, including more than 40 wood and mixed-media sculptures. Puryear's work blurs the line between the natural and the man-made by alluding to functional objects such as dwellings and tools.

"Portraits in the Permanent Collection," on view through November 1 focuses on works in MOCA's collection which represent the human face or figure in a variety of unusual ways in photographs, lithographs, drawings, paintings and sculptures by artists as diverse as Paul Cezanne, George Segal and Andy Warhol, among others.

If you already love modern art, the "Art Talks" promise to offer additional insights to enhance your appreciation, but if in the past you have found yourself staring blankly at "great works of art" while afraid to admit to anyone that you "just don't get it," this may just be the leg up you need to keep up with the "cultural elite." In any case you will be capable of absolutely riveting conversation at your boss's next dinner party. "By the way... the salad fork is on the left."

MOCA is located at California Plaza, 250 South Grand Ave., Los Angeles. All "Art Talks" are included in the museum admission price and no reservation is required. Admission is \$4 for adults and \$2 for students with ID. For information regarding the museum and the "Art Talks" call the MOCA information line at (213) 627-6222.

It's happening at 'The Zoo'

By MONTGOMERY L. BOWN
Staff Writer

As you walk into the small theater you see a stark, dimly-lit stage, completely bare except for two park benches and a wire trash can. The scene is New York's Central Park. A "white collar type" sits alone. A transient approaches. "The Zoo Story" has begun.

Written by Edward Albee, "The Zoo Story" is a one-act, two-char-

acter play. Without elaborate sets, props or other actors to interact with, the play is completely dependent on the abilities of the two characters to capture the audience. This type of production is dependant on the director's skill, and in this case director David List carried it off.

List, who not only directed but also acted as stage manager, decided to do this particular play because, he said, "it was a challenge."

Shayne Anderson, who plays the transient, has been acting for thirteen years. Joe Spencer, who plays

Peter, is attending Cal Arts this fall.

In comparison to other plays of this type, List, as well as both actors, did a wonderful job of meeting the challenges of this difficult format.

One-act plays with two characters do not often work if not done correctly. This one also could have been boring, but List's attention to blocking within an atmosphere of sparseness set the tone well.

In the interaction between the two characters, Albee touches on a variety of modern day problems.

The audience will be able to relate to something in this play regardless of their background.

The best part of this play is the spine chilling twist at the end, which I am not going to give away!

The Zoo Story opens today, and runs tomorrow and Saturday in the Shoebox Theater located in the Theater Arts Building, room 101. The best part of all is that admission is free!

The doors close at 8 p.m. sharp. Don't be late as you will not want to miss this one.

For the price of a movie

Music under the stars (and smog)

By JAE LEVINE WEISS
Entertainment Editor

"Music Under the Stars" might be a slightly optimistic title for a concert series held in the middle of the San Fernando Valley, but after all, it's the thought that counts—especially when it's free. And what this diverse program lacks in visible astronomy, it promises to make up for in music.

The three programs left in this series include:

- 9/11 Llanes Mariachi Music & Latin Jazz
- 9/25 Sterling Consort (Chamber Music)
- 10/9 Saturday Night Bath with Howie Rich (Jazz Quartet)

All performances begin at 7 p.m. The concerts, held at The Academy North Hollywood Business and Entertainment Center

Hall of Fame Plaza at 5200 Lankershim Blvd., in North Hollywood, are being presented by the Lankershim Arts Center, a facility of the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department.

They are being presented in partnership with the Universal City-North Hollywood Chamber of Commerce and the North Hollywood Redevelopment Project of the Community Redevelopment Agency.

Add a picnic supper, and you've got one romantic evening with enough pocket change left over for a couple of cappuccinos after the performance. Even the parking is free.

Perhaps a more apropos name for this series of concerts might have been "Music Under the Smog." But if you just close your eyes and use your imagination you can almost make out the Big Dipper. Can't you see it? It's right overhead, a little to the left, just beyond the moon.

Theater Arts Fall '92

Oct. 1-3 On the Verge
Oct. 8-10

Oct. 29-31 Death of Bessie Smith
on a double bill with
Nov. 5-7 God Nose

Dec. 3-5 The Butterfingers
Dec. 10-12 Angel, Mary & Joseph, Herod the Nut & the Slaughter of 12 Hit Carols in a Pear Tree

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By MYRIAM LEVY
Staff Writer

Although they finished second in last season's Western State Conference behind Cuesta, the water polo team is not ready to throw in their towels.

Valley got an early start on prac-

One of coach Krauss' biggest concerns will be how to divide up playing time, as only seven swimmers can compete at once. "Our main goals for the season are to win our conference, get into the play-offs and win," Coach Krauss said.



ADAM CROCKER / Valley Star

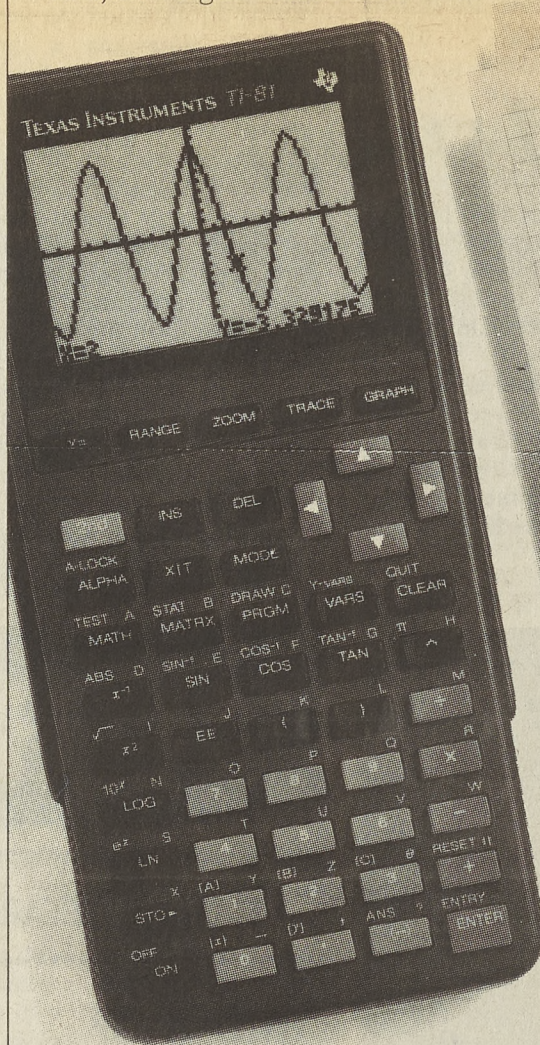
CAN'T TOUCH THIS — Sophomore water polo player, Robert Martin (right), and Steve Barron

(left), anchor Valley's bid to improve on last year's second place finish in Western State Conference.

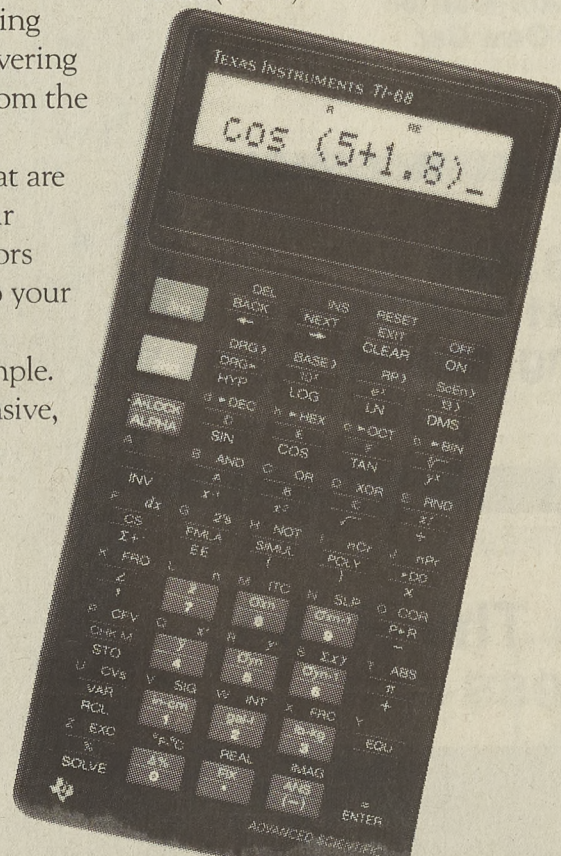
SHARA R. WELLS / Valley Star

mage against Occidental. Valley kicks off the regular season at home Saturday at 7 p.m.

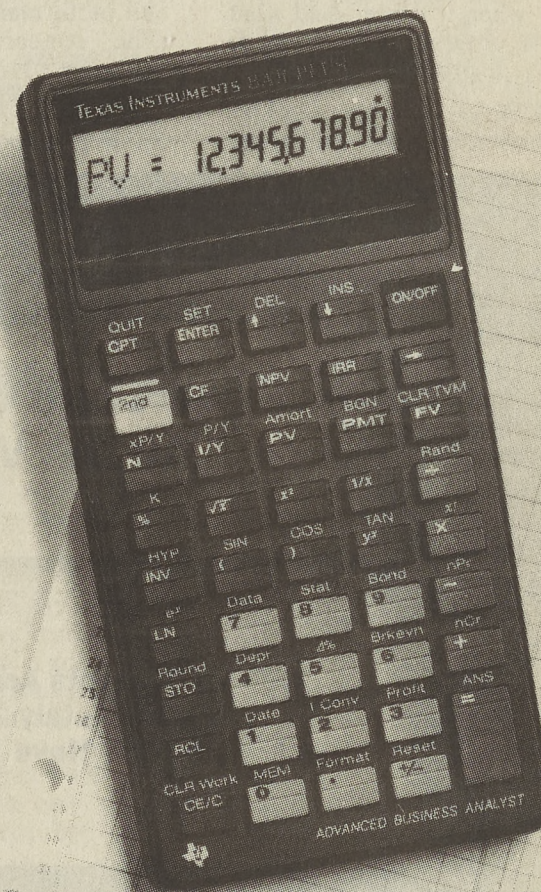
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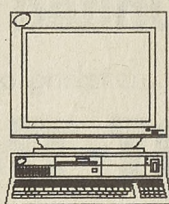
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